

-- REMARKS --

Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claim 7 was objected to due to an informality, which has been corrected herein in consistent with the Examiner's suggestion.

Claims 5, 9, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In Claim 5, the Examiner opines that the term "generally axial direction" is indefinite. The term has been deleted from the Claim. In Claim 9, the Examiner opines that the term "the axial direction" is indefinite. The term has been deleted from the Claim. Claim 9 now reads that the legs extend from the body angled outwardly. Support for the outward angle extension of the legs can be found, for example, in FIG. 2 and in the description (page 6, lines 30-31; page, 7, 29-30). In Claims 18 and 19, the Examiner opines that there is a failure to define how (in what direction) pressure is being applied to the legs to insert (and release) the legs from the corresponding openings. The Claims have been amended to clarify that inward pressure is applied to the legs. This permits insertion into the PC board openings. Release of the inward pressure permits the legs to be retained to the PC board. (See description, page 7, lines 30-31 through page 8, lines 1-9) These amendments are not intended to be further limiting, or to be in any way restrictive in the range of equivalency that may still apply. In view of the above amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under §112 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Orlando, U.S. Patent No. 5724469, in view of Kles et al. U.S. Patent No. 6481662 is respectfully traversed in view of the following remarks. As the Examiner is well aware, in order for the combination of Orlando and Kles to render the present claims, the references must supply all of the claim limitations or provide some teaching, suggestion or motivation to modify the reference to supply all of the claim limitations of the present claims.

As presently set forth, each of the present independent apparatus claims (Claims 1 and 17) defines a spool retainer for retaining a length of fiber optic cable. The retainer includes a body portion having a channel formed thereabout for receiving the fiber optic

cable and a plurality of legs sized and shaped for attaching the spool to openings formed through the PC board.

In contrast, *Orlando* shows a flat base with an attached cylindrical extension. (Col. 2, line 38) The ring includes at least two fiber fastening means (a latching clip). (Col. 2, lines 39-40 and 46) The base comprises two sections divided through the center of the cylindrical ring and releasably held together by snap-fit engagement of a tab on one side and a corresponding slot on the other. (Col. 2, lines 51-54) Fibers are secured around the ring by the fastening means. (Col. 2, lines 55-56) The base is mounted by way of screws 32 (Col. 3, line 58) or tape or adhesives 100. (Col. 3, line 65)

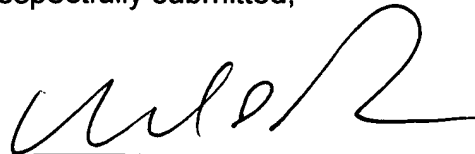
It is clear that *Orlando* lacks at least the legs for mounting the retaining spool to a PC Board of the present claims.

Kles discloses a winding assist tool 10 including a base 12 and mandrel 14. (Col. 3, lines 59-61) *Kles* discloses the use of a screw 32 for attaching the winding assist tool to a base. (Col. 3, lines 59-61) By failing to show attachment to a PC board via the legs of the present invention, *Kles* fails to provide the deficiencies of *Orlando* and therefore the combination of *Orlando* and *Kles* cannot anticipate Claims 1 and 17 of the present application or the Claims dependent therefrom. In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Because the amendments made herein were made for the purpose of clarifying the claim they are not intended to be further limiting, or to be in any way restrictive in the range of equivalency that may still apply. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the present amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**"

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the case, the Applicants request that the Examiner please contact Applicants' attorney at (312) 673-0360.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version with markings to show changes made

Please amend the following Claims:

1. (Amended) A retaining spool for a PC board for retaining a length of fiber optic cable comprising:

a body portion, the body portion including a channel formed about the periphery thereof for receiving the fiber optic cable in an arc having a radius greater than a minimum bend radius of the fiber optic cable; and

a plurality of legs extending from the body portion, each of the legs [adapted] sized and shaped to be received in an opening formed in the PC board, for securing the retaining spool to the PC board.

5. (Amended) The retaining spool of claim 2 where the body portion includes a plurality of posts formed on the center portion, [the posts extending in a generally axial direction,] the posts being inserted into corresponding openings formed in the upper and lower flange portions for positioning the flange portions on the center portion.

9. (Amended) The retaining spool of claim 1 wherein the legs extend from the body angled outwardly [with respect to the axial direction].

18. (Amended) A method of operation of a retention spool adapted to be mounted directly to a PC board for retaining a length of fiber optic cable thereto, comprising:

providing a channel about the periphery of the retention spool, the channel having a radius greater than a minimum bend radius of the fiber optic cable;

providing a plurality of openings through the PC board in a spaced apart configuration;

applying inward pressure to a plurality of legs on the retention spool;

inserting each the leg into a corresponding one of the plurality of openings on the PC board;

releasing the inward pressure from the plurality of legs to retain the retention spool to the PC board;

inserting the length of fiber optic cable into the channel in the retention spool; and retaining the length of fiber optic cable to the retention spool.